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supplied. The space is sufficient for a number of investigators at one time, and life there is very pleasant indeed.

Dr. Forrest Shreve of the Desert Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution writes that the portions of the Blue Mountains which are accessible from Cinchona, at both higher and lower altitudes, exhibit a diversity of vegetation in correlation with the widely differing temperature and moisture conditions, and also a vertical diversity from floor to canopy within the rain-forest itself. Ample opportunity is thus offered for the investigation of the physical environment in relation to the local and general distribution of plants. A wide range of plant material is available for the study of general physiological behavior as well as for the special types of activity characteristic of rain-forest plants. The fundamental processes of plants, as carried on under extremely humid conditions, and the influence of the character and rate of these processes upon the growth, distribution and periodic phenomena of the hygrophytic vegetation offer a rich field for future work

at Cinchona. The gardens, green-houses and various outbuildings afford opportunity for propagating plants and for placing them under a variety of experimental conditions. The nearness of an extensive tract of virgin forest is also a valuable asset for physiological as well as ecological work. The excellent trails, the easy means of communication and supply, the presence of a guide with a knowledge of the local flora, and the very healthful living conditions combine to make Cinchona an extremely useful station for those who may wish to carry on more or less prolonged investigations in the problems of the semi-torrid and humid tropics.

IRRIGATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

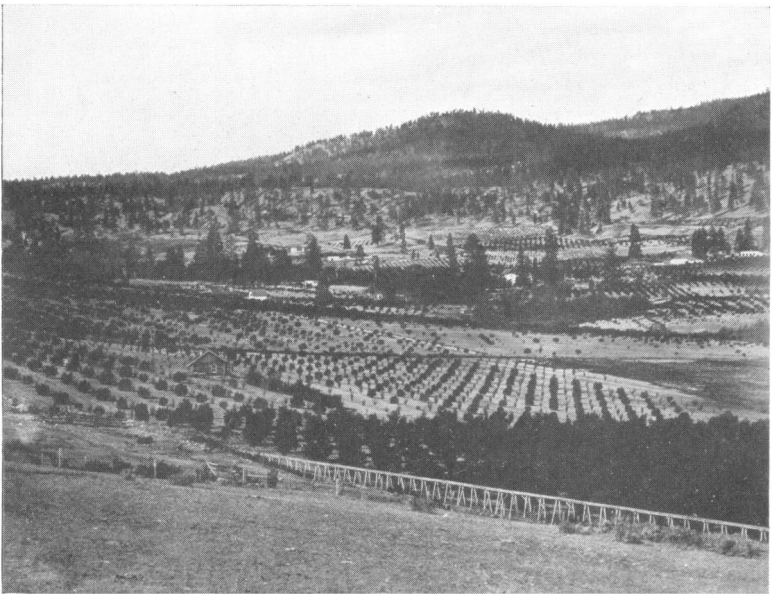
ONE of the strongest conservation fights in all America is being waged in British Columbia where the destruction of the forests on the Rocky Mountain slopes through continual fires has imperilled many thousands of acres of farm land in the valleys. Hand in hand with these efforts of the provin-



AN IRRIGATION FLUME IN BRITISH COLUMBIA. Summerland District.



APPLICATION OF THE WATER TO THE TREES, SHOWING METHOD OF IRRIGATION. The water is generally put on to the highest point of an orchard by the company and from there the fruit farmer distributes it all over his orchard, as shown in this photograph.



A VALLEY RECLAIMED. Summerland District of British Columbia under irrigation.

cial government is the work of the irrigation companies, which number nearly three hundred in the province; most of them, of course, control only a few miles of pipe lines and have a low capitalization. The largest irrigation project in Canada is at Bassano, Alberta, and in it the Canadian Pacific Railway has already invested \$10,000,000. Whatever the dimensions of the company, however, the fact that its revenues depend upon a supply of water from the hills and the additional fact that stripping the hills of timber growth ruins the water supply, brings to the side of forest protection a very strong influence.

In the interior of British Columbia, from which the accompanying photographs were taken, irrigation has reached a high degree of perfection. Barren lands were bought up by companies at a few dollars an acre and resold at a thousand dollars an acre. Those who have bought at these prices have in numbers of cases made large profits from fruit cultivation. The growth of fruit trees and of the fruit is very rapid because of the steady supply of moisture, although the quality of the product is regarded by many as not quite equal to that of non-irrigated lands.

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

DR. CHARLES HORACE MAYO, of Rochester, Minn., was elected president of the American Medical Association at the recent Detroit meeting. Dr. William J. Mayo, his brother, was president in 1906.—Dr. Henry M. Howe, emeritus professor of metallurgy in Columbia University, has been appointed honorary vice-president of the Iron and Steel Institute of Great Britain.—At a meeting of the Texas chapter of the Society of the Sigma Xi, on June 5,

Dr. Frederic W. Simonds, professor of geology in the University of Texas, was elected president for the year. Dr. Simonds was one of the first five graduate students elected to membership in the Cornell chapter.

THE International Health Commission of the Rockefeller Foundation, sent to Brazil to make a general medical survey of the southern part of the country, has returned. The commission consisted of Professor Richard M. Pearce, of the University of Pennsylvania, chairman; Major Bailey K. Ashford, of the U. S. Medical Corps; Dr. John A. Ferrell, of the International Health Commission, and a secretary. They were absent for about four months and the work included a study of the general educational system in Brazil, the medical schools, hospitals and dispensaries, and public health organization.—The Carnegie Institution expedition to Tobago, British West Indies, was exceptionally successful. The southwestern end of Tobago consists of elevated coral-bearing lime-stones and the coast from Milford Bay northward is flanked by a modern coral reef. Dr. Hubert Lyman Clark, of Harvard University, collected 73 species of echinoderms in this region, and of these Dr. Th. Mortensen, of Copenhagen University, reared 10 throughout their larval stages; among them a crinoid *Tropiometra* which was abundant over the shallow reef-flats. Dr. A. G. Mayer studied the Siphonophores, the pelagic life being abundant, due to the fact that the water of the great equatorial drift of the Atlantic strikes immediately upon the coast of Tobago. The coastal waters of Tobago are those of the clear blue tropical ocean, for the island lies to the northward of the muddy shores of Trinidad.